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**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR APNEA DETECTION USING BLOOD  
PRESSURE DETECTED VIA AN IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL SYSTEM**

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**Abstract of the Invention**

Techniques are provided for detecting non-obstructive forms of apnea within a patient using an implantable medical system based on changes in blood pressure. The implantable system monitors for any substantially uniform decrease in diastolic blood pressure over a series of heartbeats. If the uniform decrease is sustained from beat to beat over a sufficient period of time, typically only ten seconds, non-obstructive apnea is deemed to have commenced and appropriate therapy may then be delivered. Preferably, however, therapy is only delivered if the episode of apnea is corroborated based on thoracic impedance signals, accelerometer signals or the like. In this manner, an episode of non-obstructive apnea can be promptly and reliably detected, thus allowing for prompt delivery of therapy.